

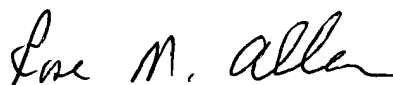
REMARKS

Independent claims 1 and 36 have been amended to overcome the new ground of rejection based on indefiniteness, under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that the amended claims obviate this rejection. Further, from reading the specification, one skilled in the art would have been able to determine that the acid component was part of the reaction mixture (see page 18, second full paragraph). The specification states: "The process according to the invention further comprises the additional concomitant use of an acid." The term "concomitant" means simultaneous (i.e. the acid is part of the reaction mixture). In addition, the Examples provide further evidence to one skilled in the art that the acid is added to the reaction mixture.

In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants submit that claims 1-37 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favourable issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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